Encroachments of Roads and Pavements

2538. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that encroachments of roads and Pevaments and mushroom growth of jhuggis on public land in Delhi have assumed a menacing proportion as per the newsitem entitled "Encroachments defy solution" which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 13th June, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government have taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is estimated that in January 1990 there were 2,60,000 jhuggis in Delhi. This number is estimated to have increased since then mainly due to migration of people into the city and lack of affordable housing.

The encroachments of municipal roads/pavements are reported to be mostly in the form of temporary structures put up by shop keepers or howkers. A large number of squatters-howkers are reported to be doing their business under the strength of stay orders from various courts.

(c) Action for removal of encrochments is taken under the relevant Acts by the concerned agencies. As reported by Delhi Development Authority, it has taken steps to strengthen the Land Protection Branch. Field Departments like Engineering Wing and Horticulture Department in DDA have been made responsible for the land placed under their charge. Security Guards/ Supervisors have been posted to keep watch on DDA lands against attempts of encroachments. As soon as many fresh attempt of encroachment is noticed, complaints/FIRs are lodged with the police besides undertaking clearance operations. Encroachments of roads and pavements are removed from time to time through joint operations of MCD with Delhi Police. Recently, Commissioner of Police has drawn up a programme for removal of ancroachments and clearing all main roads as far as MCD area is concerned. New Delhi Municipal Committee takes action for demolition of jhuggis as and when new jhuggis are constructed.

Housing Problem in Metropolitan Cities

2539. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have carried out survey of housing shortage in the four metropolitan cities of the country;

(b) if so, the ratio of shelterless to house owners in these cities and other findings of the survey;

(c) whether Government have chalked out any special plan for providing shelter to the poor of these cities and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether Central grant is being given to the concerned State Governments in this regard during the curent year, statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No specific survay of housing shortage has been conducted by the Central Govt. However, the National Buildings